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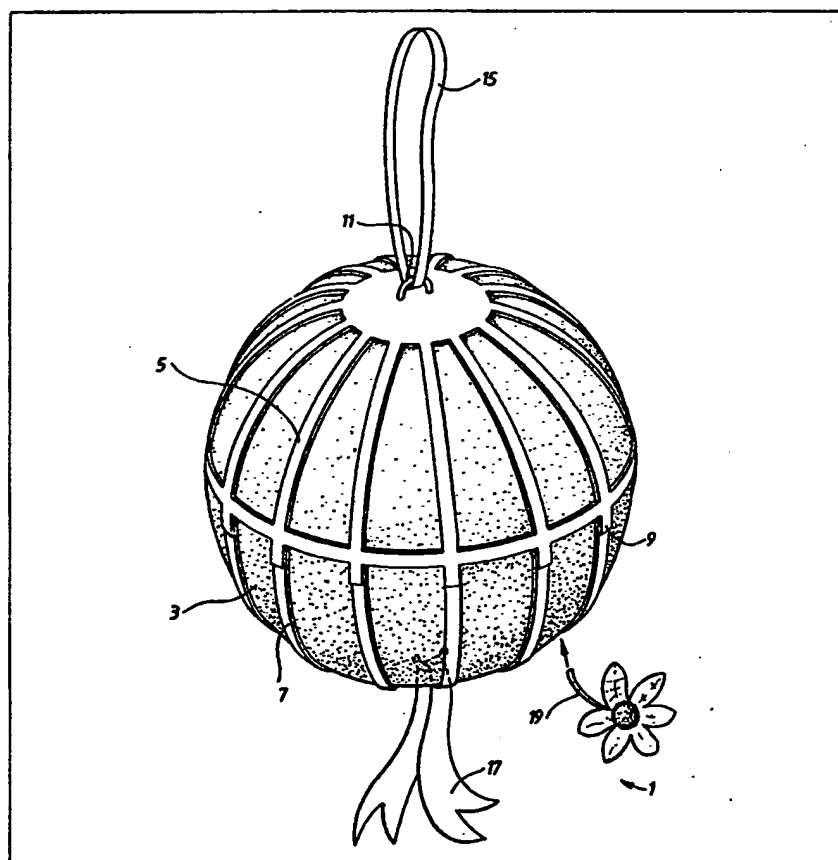
(71) Applicant
Jean Madeline Liley
The White House
Crossley Lane
Mirfield WF14 0NR

(72) Inventor
Jean Madeline Liley

(74) Agents
Urquhart-Dykes and
Lord
11th Floor
Tower House
Merrion Way
Leeds LS2 8PB
West Yorkshire

(54) Floral decoration

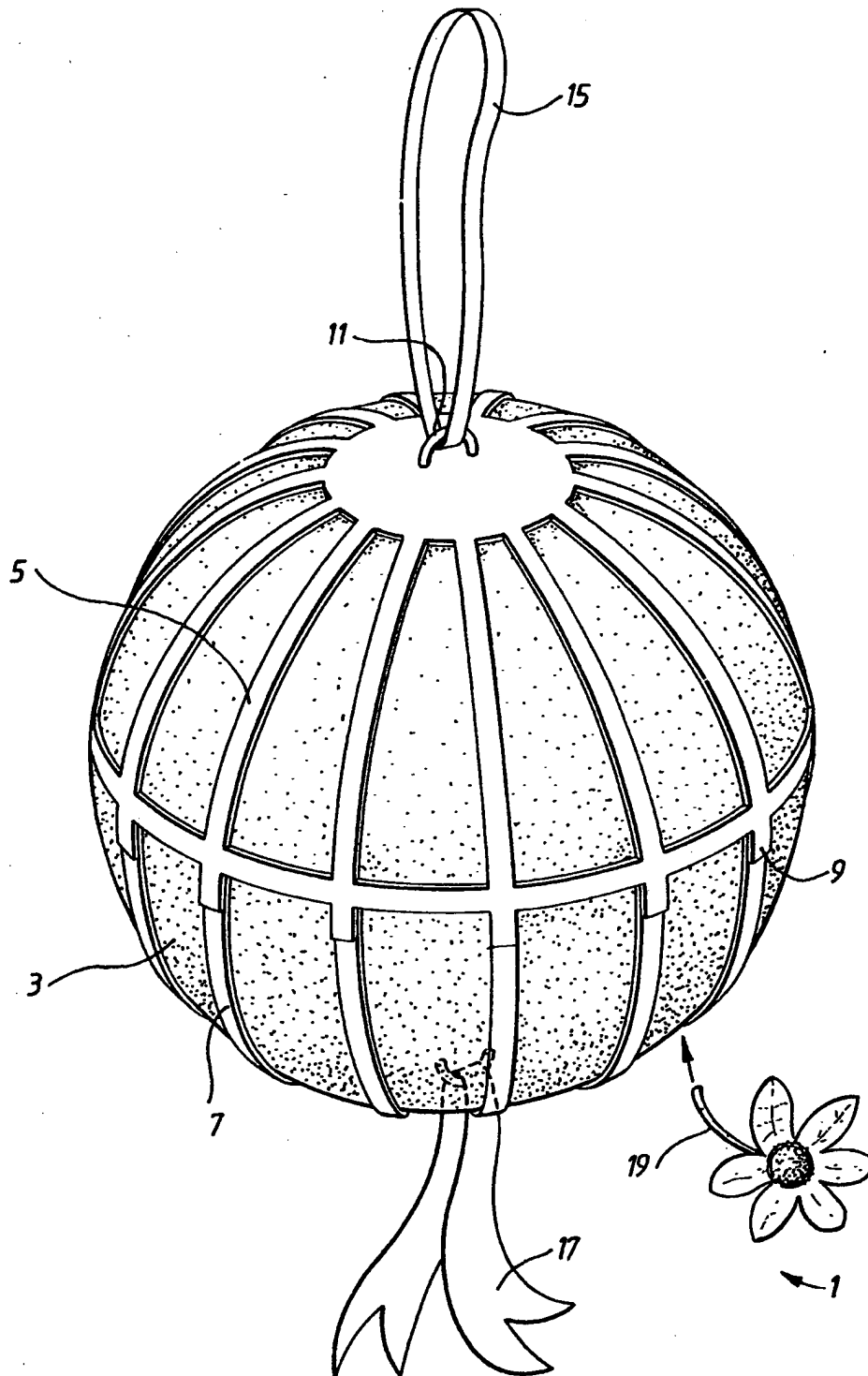
(57) A floral pomander (1) comprises a body of an absorbent foam material (3) for example the type of urea-formaldehyde plastics material known as 'Oasis'. The body is enclosed within a cage formed by two interlocking cage members (5, 7) to which ribbons (15, 17) can be attached for hanging purposes. The pomander is decorated with flowers and/or foliage by inserting the stems (19) into the absorbent foam material.



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SPECIFICATION

Floral decoration

- 5 The present invention relates to floral decorations, particularly of the type sometimes known as pomanders or flower balls.

- A common form of floral decoration is a so-called pomander. This comprises a substantially spherical body of water-retaining moss, which is held together by means of wire binding. Flowers are then fixed to the body by wires which both serve to support the flower and lock the stem in position on the body of the pomander. When the body of the pomander is substantially covered by flowers, the decoration may be provided with, for instance, ribbons attached to the top of the pomander so that the decoration can be carried in the hand. Alternatively, larger decorations may be hung from above on suitable supports, such as for instance from brackets on walls or ceilings.

- However, the forming of such pomanders is both time-consuming and requires a considerable amount of skill in the binding of the moss body and the fixing of the flowers to the body.

- According to the present invention there is provided a floral pomander comprising a body of an absorbent foam material, said body, in use being enclosed within a cage formed by two interlocking cage members.

- Preferably the body is substantially spherical in shape, and the cage members are substantially hemispherical. Conveniently the cage members are of a plastics material, and are preferably formed by means of an injection moulding process.

- Desirably the cage members are provided with one or more loops to which ribbons or other lengths of decorative or supporting material may be attached.

- A pomander in accordance with the present invention thus provides a decoration which is both simple and quick to put together, and in which there is no necessity for providing locking wires to retain the flowers in the body of the pomander, as the foam itself is capable of supporting the flower.

- Also provided within the scope of the present invention is a method for forming a floral pomander, said method comprising placing a body of an absorbent foam material in a first cage member, and fitting onto said body a second cage member capable of being attached to said first cage member so as substantially to enclose the said body within a cage-like structure, and decorating said pomander with flowers and foliage by means of inserting the stalk of the flower or foliage into said foam body.

- An embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying draw-

ing which shows a side elevation of a pomander in accordance with the present invention.

- Referring to the drawing, which shows a pomander in accordance with the present invention before the full insertion of decorative flowers, a floral pomander comprises a substantially spherical body of an absorbent foam. In this embodiment the foam is of the well-known type of urea-formaldehyde plastics material known as "Oasis", but in alternative embodiments it may be any other suitable foam. The body 3 is enclosed within a cage comprising two substantially hemispherical members 5 and 7. The cage member 5 which in use is uppermost, is provided with a plurality of latch members 9 which engage the lower cage member 7 so as to hold it in position.

- The cage members 5 and 7 are each provided with a loop 11 and 13 projecting from the surface of the cage member 5 or 7, and positioned so as to lie, in use, substantially diametrically opposite one another and so that a straight line through the body 3 joining the two loops 11 and 13 would be perpendicular to the plane along which the cage is divided into two cage members 5 and 7. Thus, a loop of ribbon may be passed through the upper loop 11 so as to form a carrying handle 15. Similarly ribbons may be attached to the lower loop 13 so as to hang as decoration from the pomander.

- The pomander is formed by placing the body 3 into the lower cage member 7 and then encasing the upper half of the body 3 in the cage member 5 and attaching the two cage members together so as fully to enclose the body 3. The pomander is then decorated by inserting the stems of flowers or foliage directly into the foam body 3 which should be wetted before such insertion, and/or if desirable, afterwards, so as to prolong the life of the flowers and foliage inserted therein. In this manner the surface of the pomander may substantially be covered by flowers and/or foliage.

- It will readily be appreciated that the formation of such a pomander in accordance with the present invention is considerably easier, quicker and cleaner than that of a conventional pomander from which a ball of water-retaining moss must be bound with wire into a desired shape and in which the flowers must be secured by means of locking wires.

- In this embodiment the cage members 5 and 7 are formed of a plastics material, but any other suitable material may be used in alternative embodiments. This embodiment of the present invention is also intended to be held in the hand, but alternative embodiments may vary in size and shape and may be intended for suspension from walls, ceilings or similar structures.

130 CLAIMS

1. A floral pomander which comprises a body of absorbent foam material, said body in use being enclosed within a cage formed by two interlocking cage members.
- 5 2. A pomander as claimed in claim 1 in which the body is substantially spherical in shape and the cage members are substantially hemi-spherical.
3. A pomander as claimed in either of
- 10 claims 1 or 2 in which the cage members are of plastics material.
4. A pomander as claimed in claim 3 in which the cage members are formed by means of injection moulding.
- 15 5. A pomander as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the cage members are provided with one or more loops to which ribbons or other lengths of decorative or supporting material may be attached.
- 20 6. A pomander as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 which, in use, is covered with flowers or foliage supported by the stems thereof being pushed into the absorbent foam material.
- 25 7. A method of forming a floral pomander which comprises placing a body of an absorbent foam material in a first cage member, and fitting on to said body a second cage member capable of being attached to said first
- 30 cage member so as to substantially enclose the said body within a cage like structure, and decorating said pomander with flowers and foliage by means of inserting the stalks of the flowers or foliage into the said foam body.
- 35 8. A pomander substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	COUNTRY
LILEY, JEAN MADELINE	N/A

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	COUNTRY
LILEY JEAN MADELINE	N/A

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ABSTRACT:

A floral pomander (1) comprises a body of an absorbent foam material (3) for example the type of urea-formaldehyde plastics material known as 'Oasis'. The body is enclosed within a cage formed by two interlocking cage members (5, 7) to which ribbons (15, 17) can be attached for hanging purposes. The pomander is decorated with flowers and/or foliage by inserting the stems (19) into the absorbent foam material. <IMAGE>